

Lympstone Players' Newsletter

January, 2021

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Years come in all sorts of shapes and sizes but I'm sure you'll agree that few could compare with 2020. A year ago we were just starting to explore ideas and scripts for a Spring production, with performance and rehearsal dates booked and auditions planned. Before too long darkness descended and life as we know it took an unexpected turn.

However, along with the continuing uncertainty surrounding what it may or may not be possible to do in the first part of 2021, there is reason to hope that the roll-out of the vaccines will bring an easing of restrictions and a return to live performances during the Autumn. More on this later.

LOOKING BACK AT 2020 *The Show Must Go On (...sort of)*

Although it soon became obvious that normal service would not be resumed for quite some time, the more technically and digitally minded Players turned to the possibilities opened up by Zoom. We were thus able to showcase the talents of a number of our members who entertained us with sketches and monologues at our weekly gatherings on Zoom including a VE Day Special Event.



Zoom Gatherings Lockdown 1 ... some clearly more amused than others ...

Lympstone Living Advent Calendar

As part of the first living advent calendar trail in Lympstone, The Players were invited to decorate windows in the Committee Room in the Village Hall. We went for a vintage panto theme ... oh yes we did!



Playreadings

In the 2019/2020 season (September to April) we read:

September 19 — *The Jew of Malta* — Christopher Marlowe

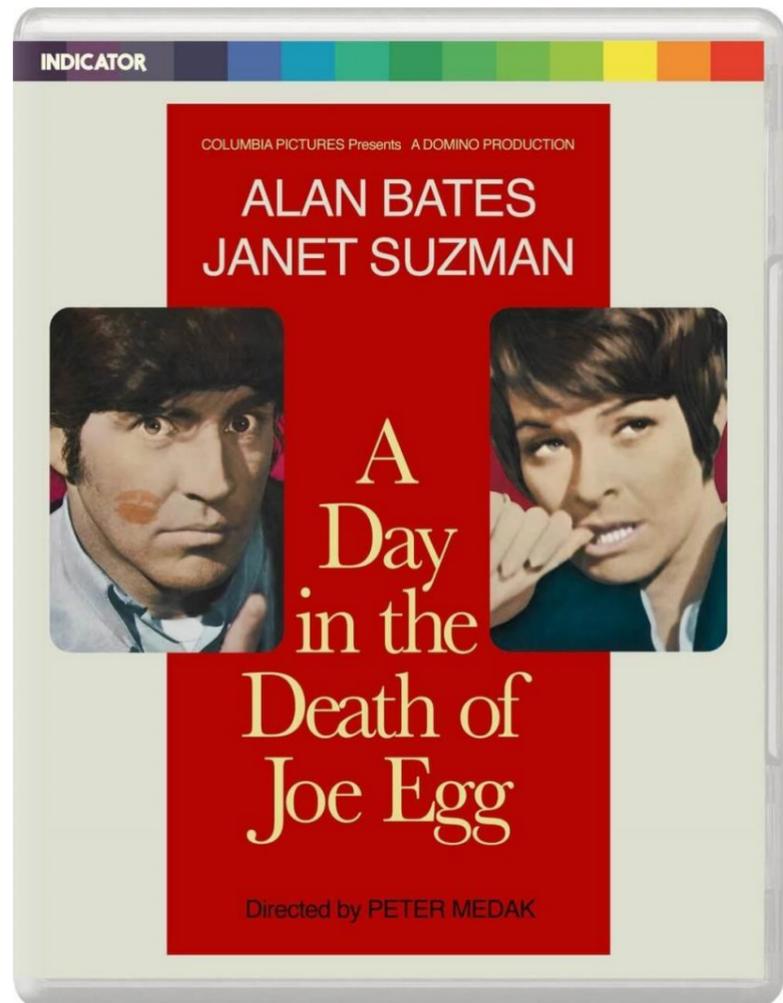
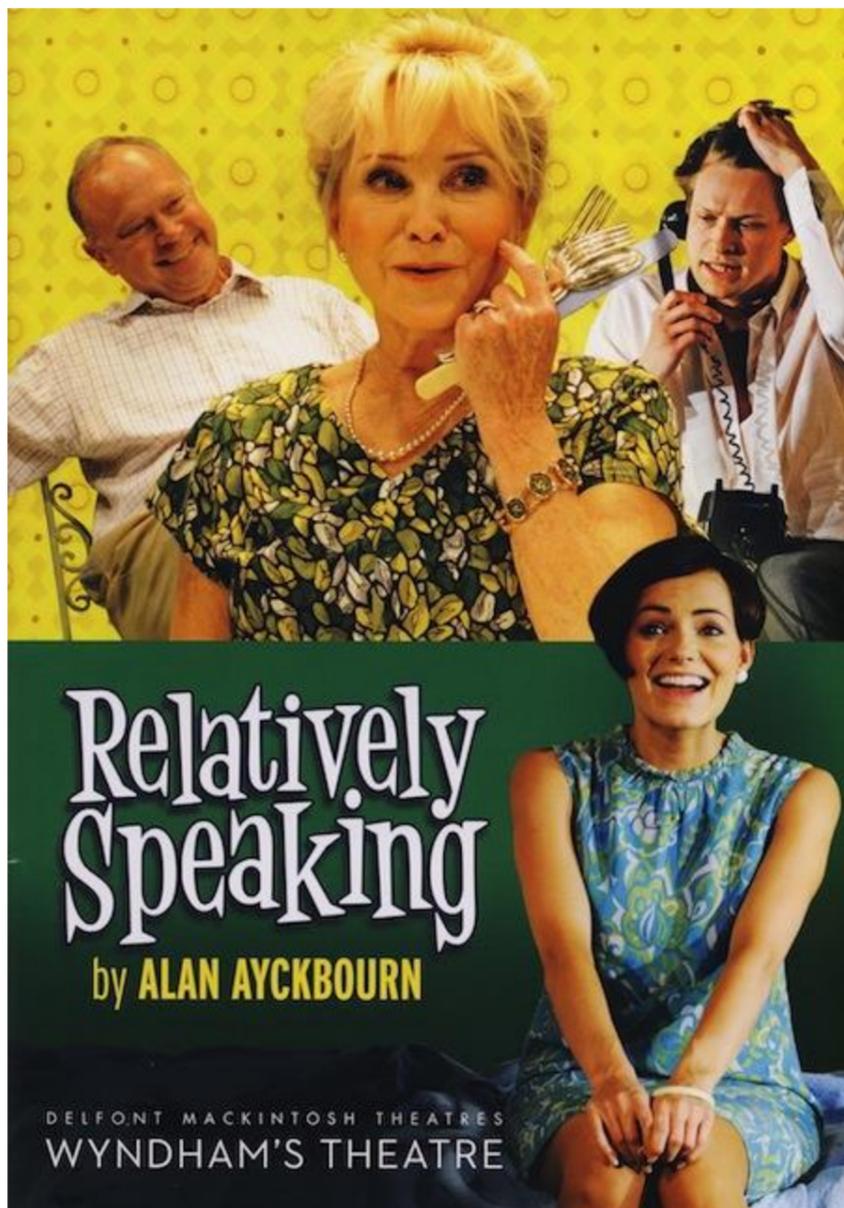
October 19 — *Weekend* — Michael Palin

November 19 — *Thark* — Ben Travers

January 20 — *The Crucible* — Arthur Miller

March 20 — *The Constant Wife* — Somerset Maugham

Although the first Lockdown stopped any April reading, we started again in September, with restrictions keeping numbers down to 6 (as against the usual 12 — 18). Clive Wilson organised two readings of *A Day in the Life of Joe Egg* (Peter Nicholls) and *Relatively Speaking* (Ayckbourn). It was a welcome opportunity for many to enjoy a dose of culture and a brief moment of social normality, albeit in small numbers.



Annual General Meeting 2020 30 July 2020 at Mill View, Lymstone

As a result of the restrictions on meetings held indoors it was decided to incorporate a slimmed down AGM into a socially-distanced gathering in Judy Day's garden. The formal minutes will be available at the next AGM. The following members were elected to be officers/committee members for 2021:

Officers 2020-21

The following officers were elected for 2020-21:

Chair David Eaton
Treasurer Judy Day
Secretary Lesley Anderson

Committee Members 2020-21

Vivienne Copp
Elizabeth Langley
Sharon Wayland
Heather Redding
Simon Ellis
Greg Crum (Players' Village Hall Rep and Trustee)
Officers are automatically members of the committee

Finances

Judy Day presented the accounts. A copy of the summary accounts is available on request from the Chair. The balance for the year was £4,444. It was decided at the AGM that subs would be waived for 2020/21. However, given the need to continue to pay the Players' fixed costs such as the rental of storage space at the village hall, it was agreed that members would be invited to make a voluntary contribution if they so wished. £5 was suggested as an appropriate contribution.

Reasons to Celebrate!

Congratulations to David and Judy on their wedding in October and to the birth of new grandson Arthur in November. Can't wait for the celebration party!



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

Although the start of 2021 sees the country continuing to face severe restrictions on activities of every kind, there is obviously hope of a silver lining with the roll out of the vaccine programme. Some of you youngsters may even get the call during January! It seems likely that a significant proportion of the population will have been vaccinated by midsummer, with a consequent easing of restrictions becoming a possibility.

In the meantime, we will continue to keep the enthusiasm and spirit of the Players alive.

December Production

The Players committee have decided to target December 2021 for our first performance since the start of the pandemic. A provisional booking has been made with the Village Hall for performances to take place on 2, 3, 4 December (Thurs – Sat).

A decision on what we will be putting on has not yet been made, but there is a real appetite to take on a major production (hurrah!), involving as many as possible (hurrah!), whether in the cast or in supporting roles (hurrah!). We hope to make a decision on this during January/February and will discuss options with as many of you as possible, given the limitations on meeting each other.

If restrictions have not been lifted soon enough for us to commit to a major production with confidence, we will look at something on a smaller scale requiring a shorter lead-in period and logistics that fit the restrictions in place at the time.

Filming of "Village Life"

Inspired by the contributions made by members in our Zoom gatherings earlier in the year, we decided to continue our performance efforts by engaging with the wonderful world of film-making. Armed with our trusty smart phones and You-Tube tutorials on iMovie, we have been filming sketches around the village with a view to "streaming" them as a show dubbed "Village Life".. Watch this space! It's been a great project that's kept a number of us quite busy during lockdown lulls and will certainly add to our versatility as performers in the future. Below and overleaf are a number of stills taken "on location" whilst filming. Characters are (of course) all fictitious and bear no resemblance to any known villagers!

Lympstone Village Concert 2021

Another positive outcome from our Zoom Gatherings and time made available for creative writing during Lockdown has been the plethora of comedy sketches we now have available for performance at the next village concert booked for 22st May. Let's start rehearsing!

Future Playreadings

Playreadings will of course start again as soon as restrictions on group meetings are relaxed.



Mrs Mullins and The Less-Than-Sympathetic Inspector



Bringing you LBC Newsnight live from Mill View Studios

“Village Life” ... in pictures



Trixie the Bolshie Barista



Smithy and Jean in Dumping Them on Dover – A VE Day Special



Marjorie the Lockdown Lush awaits the reopening of the pubs